

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical wire guide, comprising:  
an elongate wire;  
5 a fluoropolymer coating on said elongate wire, said fluoropolymer coating including an etched carbonaceous surface; and  
a lubricious and/or therapeutic coating adhered to said etched carbonaceous surface.
- 10 2. The medical wire guide of claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer is polytetrafluoroethylene.
3. The medical wire guide of claim 1, which is an  
15 exchange wire guide.
4. The medical wire guide of claim 1, including at least one system of indicia thereon.
- 20 5. The medical wire guide of claim 1, having a lubricious coating adhered to said etched carbonaceous surface.
6. The medical wire guide of claim 5, wherein said  
25 lubricious coating comprises one or more polymers non-covalently adhered to the carbonaceous surface.
7. The medical wire guide of claim 5, wherein said lubricious coating comprises polyvinylpyrrolidone or a  
30 copolymer thereof.

8. A medical device, comprising:  
an elongate member for traversing a bodily passage;  
the elongate member including a polymer portion  
having an etched carbonaceous surface; and  
5 a lubricous and/or therapeutic coating on said  
surface.

9. The medical device of claim 9, wherein said  
polymer portion is a fluoropolymer portion.

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10. The medical device of claim 9, wherein the  
fluoropolymer polytetrafluoroethylene.

11. The medical device of claim 8, which is a  
15 catheter or wire guide.

12. A medical device, comprising:  
a member for traversing or implantation within  
a bodily passage;  
20 the member having an etched polymer portion  
having a carbonaceous surface; and  
a lubricious and/or therapeutic coating adhered  
to said carbonaceous surface.

13. The medical device of claim 12, wherein the  
polymer is a fluoropolymer.

14. The medical device of claim 12, which is a wire  
guide, catheter, or stent.

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15. The medical device of claim 12, wherein a lubricious coating is adhered to said carbonaceous surface.

5        16. The medical device of claim 12, wherein a therapeutic coating is adhered to said carbonaceous surface, the therapeutic coating containing an antibiotic or anti-thrombogenic agent.

10       17. A method for applying a lubricious coating to a medical device, comprising:

      providing a medical device with a sodium-etched polymer surface; and

      applying a lubricious coating to the sodium-etched  
15 polymer surface.

      18. The method of claim 17, wherein the polymer is a fluoropolymer.

20       19. The method of claim 18, wherein the fluoropolymer is polytetrafluoroethylene.

      20. The method of claim 17, wherein the medical device is a wire guide, catheter, or stent.

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      21. The method of claim 20, wherein the medical device is a wire guide.

      22. A medical wire guide, comprising:  
30        an elongate member having a polymer surface;

said polymer surface having been treated to remove atoms and increase the hydrophilic character of the polymer surface; and

5 a lubricious and/or therapeutic coating adhered to the treated polymer surface.

10 23. The medical wire guide of claim 22, which has a lubricious coating adhered to the treated fluoropolymer surface.

24. The medical wire guide of claim 23, wherein the lubricious coating also includes a therapeutic agent.

15 25. The medical wire guide of claim of claim 22, wherein the polymer is a fluoropolymer.

20 26. The medical wire guide of claim 25, wherein the fluoropolymer is polytetrafluoroethylene.

27. A method for manufacturing a medical wire guide, comprising:

25 providing an elongate wire;  
applying a fluoropolymer coating on the elongate wire;

etching the fluoropolymer coating with sodium metal to form an etched fluoropolymer surface; and

applying a lubricious coating to the etched fluoropolymer surface.

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28. A method for applying a lubricious and/or  
therapeutic coating to a medical device, comprising  
applying a lubricous and/or therapeutic coating to an  
etched carbonaceous surface of a polymeric portion of the  
5 device.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said etched  
carbonaceous surface has been chemically etched.

10 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said etched  
carbonaceous surface has been sodium etched.